REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

TO THE

Members of the Montreal Sanitary Association.

JANUARY, 1888.

GENTLEMEN,

The work of the Association during the first eight months of its existence, has amply justified its formation.

Its purpose, which was to furnish a thorough scientific and independent examination and supervision of the Sanitary appliances now used in every dwelling of any pretensions, has been fully attained, within the limits of our membership.

The appended report of our engineer, Mr. Fleming, gives a full statement of his work, exemplified by selected cases, and will show how urgently such work as his is called for.

The council has to express its satisfaction with Mr. Fleming, not only as regards his industry and thoroughness, but also in regard to the confidence which the council have in his skill and professional capacity.

The finances are in a satisfactory condition, and it will be for our successors from time to time to revise the scale of changes to meet the varying circumstances in which the members may be placed, the object being not profit but efficient service. The financial statement is appended.

The council confidently anticipate a marked improvement on the quality and style of sanitary work throughout the city as a result of the operations of the association, and it will be matter for consideration to what extent and in what directions we can extend in the future the usefulness of the association.

The whole submitted,

GEORGE A. DRUMMOND,

President.

[OVER.]

ENGINEERS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1887.

STANDARD BUILDINGS, ST. JAMES STREET. JANUARY 4TH, 1888.

To the Council of the Association.

GENTLEMEN,

Since the start of the practical work of the Association in the last week of May, 1887, the work has been continuous, except for a week in June when I was confined to the house, unwell, and for a few weeks in the summer time, when it was frequently impossible to get inspections arranged for, owing to the absence of a great number of the members from town.

About 261 visits of examination, superintendence, and final testing have, however, been made to members' houses and properties, up to December 31st of the past year. Of these 111 were first examinations, and about 150 supplementary visits of superintendence and testing.

The total membership for the past year, including public buildings and offices, is 205, which is an increase of about 40 since May, and leaves 94 examinations yet to make.

Several of the members, however, refused examinations when offered, and others postponed them indefinitely. The total number of first examinations offered was 143, which would have enabled me to overtake the whole original membership by the end of this month. As it is, however, the remainder will be overtaken early in the present year, and considerably within a year from the starting of the practical work of the Association, and the whole of the annual examinations will be easily overtaken before the end of this year. There is every prospect also of a large amount of new work. If this is the case, there will be ample work for an assistant engineer, who would in fact become necessary.

The results of the examinations during the past seven months have been varied, but have fully exemplified the necessity for such examinations, and amply justified the Association's existence. A few examples of what has been found will not be amiss in this report.

In one large house the air pipe ventilating the soil pipe was eaten through so as to be quite open, and permitted the foul gases from the sewer to escape freely into the interior of the house.

In another house on Peel Street about 60 feet of 9 inch fire-clay pipe drain was found to be almost level, and to be very imperfectly jointed and leaky.

In a new house in Mackay Street the drains, which consisted of fire-clay pipes, were discovered to have been laid on a shifting bed of clay, and in consequence to be disjointed, without fall, out of place, and at one point broken by the settlement of the front wall of the house. The joints of the soil pipe were also found to be very faulty. A new main drain had to be laid right out to the street sewer, the part inside the house being of heavy cast iron.

A house on Sherbrooke Street, where great annoyance was experienced from offensive smell, was found to have wooden box drains discharging into a large cesspit in the back yard, and having no connection with the sewers, except by means of an untrapped overflow pipe, which only served to make matters worse.

In two houses where the drains were in comparatively good condition a perfect lake of water was found under the basement floor, causing great dampness, and consequent unhealthiness, and proceeding from leakage of the water supply pipes.

In a house in Union Avenue examined recently, and suspected by the medical adviser of the family to be in a bad sanitary condition, the main drain had free ventilation into the house though the waste pipe of the bath which had an untrapped connection with it.

In a house on Drummond Street the drains and soil piping were wholly unventilated, and basins and a slop sink in bedrooms had unventilated connections with the soil pipe. The trap of the slop sink was in consequence unsealed when the w. c. on the floor below was used, and a free ventilation of the drains and public sewer into the bedroom was the result.

These examples are merely typical of what is being discovered all the time, but I need not multiply them.

In the great majority of houses there still exist old "pan" w. c.'s which are very filthy appliances, and should not be allowed to exist in any dwelling.

The practice of ventilating soil pipes with galvanized iron air pipes is also very common and is very objectionable. Such air pipes are never reliable, and seldom stand the smoke test.

Several cases where illness had evidently been caused by the condition of the drainage or plumber work were also met with.

The most frequent defect met with is leakage of drains or soil pipes. This defect which is a very serious one, has occurred in 50 per cent. of the houses and buildings examined.

I have invariably recommended the disconnection of house drains from the public sewers by a suitable trap and fresh air inlet, as a precaution of the utmost importance in every case, where possible; and have to report that the insertion of these traps has not been accompanied as yet by any inconvenient results such as were anticipated by some as likely to occur during the winter season.

The manner in which the reports have been acted upon by householders is also very gratifying, the recommendations in the reports having been giving effect to in fully 70 per cent. of the houses reported on. This percentage is probably under the mark, as it only includes cases reported to the Association. Alterations have no doubt been effected in some cases without notice being given to the Association.

The Association is daily getting better known and its work more appreciated; and as already stated the prospects of new work for the ensuing year are very satisfactory.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

RICHARD P. FLEMING,

Engineer.

MONTREAL SANITARY ASSOCIATION.

DR. STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DEC., 1887. CR.

1887.			1887.	
Dec. 31.	To amount received for annual subscription and examinations, as per Cash Book	$1,794 00	Dec. 31. By Amount paid for *Preliminary Expenses* as Ocean Passage and R.R. fares for Engineer, Cables, Books, Printing, Stationery, Desk, Signs, Salary of Temporary clerk, Smoke Testing Machine and rent of Mechanics Long Room	$472 45
			By Postage Stamps	5 00
			" Office Rent, 6 months	40 00
			" Engineer's salary, 7 months, at £300 stg	851 68
			" Engineers' expenses	36 0
			" Collecting portion of subscriptions.	10 00
			" Balance on hand	378 77
		$1,794 00		$1,794 0
1888.				
Jan. 1.	To balance	$378 77		